FIGHT CLUB CATWOMAN'S CLAWS COME OUT

{page 16}

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Weekend, June 10-12, 2011
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News worth sharing.

Seeing. Double

▶ The last generation of springtime-nuisance mosquitoes and the first of the summer season will likely emerge at the same time because of recent weather conditions, Winnipeg's chief entomologist Taz Stuart, above, says. Four helicopters and 160 staff are working to treat 35,000 hectares of standing water to stay on top of the bug battle. See story at metronews.ca/winnipeg.

JAMES TURNER/METRO

Skeeter seasons to overlap?

Worst flood in 350 years isn't over yet: Province

▶ Current flood systems along Assiniboine may not be able handle new water: Minister ▶ Warns rivers and lakes will continue to rise

Manitoba's 1997 Flood of the Century may pale in comparison to the 2011 Flood of the Half-Millenium.

While flooding on the Red River was minimal this year, meaning Winnipeggers have barely registered the massive disaster happening in their province, outside of Winnipeg the flood situation on the Assiniboine River is becoming grim again.

A rain system making its way into the province this weekend will again dump massive amounts of precipitation on already oversaturated farmland, said Emergency Measures Minister Steve Ashton on Thursday. It's the fifth major storm system in the past few weeks.

Ashton said if the storm system is as bad as forecast, the current dikes may not be able to handle the flow of new water.

THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

▶ The Portage Diversion

Work has started up once again to reinforce the dikes along the Assiniboine River, said Ashton, and the Portage Diversion will again be operating more than double its normal capacity.

The diversion, which redirects water from the Assiniboine River into Lake Manitoba, was operating at 30,000 cubic feet per second and may reach levels as high as 52,000 cfs. Its normal operating capacity is 25,000 cfs, but during the initial flood stages it was reinforced.

Homes in Portage la Prairie that were evacuated last month are being evacuated again, 45 in total.

"The 2011 flood is a flood of record and high water levels are expected to continue through the summer and into the fall," said Ashton. "The flood on the Assiniboine River at Portage la Prairie is a one-in-350-year event."

ELISHA DACEY

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1 news

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On the web at metronews.ca

Auditor general's report slams the Conservative government's attempts to keep Parliament in the dark over G8 spending. Video at metronews.ca

Province, city to invest $2.55M to capture gas

- Would be largest gas-capture system in Manitoba
- Equivalent to taking 19,000 cars off the road

ELISHA DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA

CHRISD.CA

▶ Premier Greg Selinger and Deputy Mayor Justin Swandel announce a joint partnership to capture methane at Brady Road Landfill.

It only took about a decade, but the province and the city are moving forward with plans to capture methane emissions from Brady Road Landfill.

In a joint press conference held Thursday, Premier Greg Selinger, along with Deputy Mayor Justin Swandel announced the two levels of government have signed an agreement to see Manitoba's largest landfill gas-collection system built at the landfill.

"Methane gas is a serious threat to our environment," said Selinger. "By capturing it here in the landfill and turning it into carbon dioxide, we'll eliminate more than 95,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas each year. That's equivalent to taking more than 19,000 cars off the road."

More than 80 gas extraction wells will be drilled into the existing garbage to a depth of 15 metres. The gas will then be drawn from the wells and transferred to a central station where it will be set on fire to convert it to carbon dioxide.

Methane gas is 21 times more harmful to the environment than carbon dioxide, said Selinger. The project will reduce greenhouse gas from landfills in Manitoba by 11 per cent.

Cops nab motorcyclist after chase

A motorcyclist who led city police officers on a prolonged long high-speed chase across 24 kilometres of Winnipeg roadway with a passenger in tow had no proper licence and no insurance, police say.

At about 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, patrolling officers tried to stop a black Honda 600 motorcycle that was spotted speeding along Bishop Grandin Boulevard.

An initial attempt to pull the motorbike over failed and a chase ensued along Lagimodiere Boulevard, said police. At that point, officers noted the bike had no plates.

The motorcycle was seen weaving in and out of traffic, between vehicles and even ran a red light, Const. Jason Michalyshen said.

When it turned onto the Trans-Canada Highway, its speed was estimated at 200 km/h.

Officers giving chase had to make "every effort" to catch up to the speeding bike, it was going so fast, Michalyshen said.

The WPS helicopter was called in and followed the motorcycle from above until the driver pulled over on Gunn Road.

Police arrested 20-year-old Paul Childs. Childs has been charged with a laundry list of offences, including dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, flight from police and driving an unregistered vehicle.

He was wanted on a warrant for failing to turn up in court to face prior charges, Michalyshen said.

The 19-year-old woman riding on the back of the bike is not facing charges. JAMES TURNER

News in pictures

PHOTOS
1. JAMES TURNER/METRO
2. CONTRIBUTED
3. ELISHA DACEY/METRO
4. ELISHA DACEY/METRO

1 A woman jumped from a second-floor window and was badly injured by smoke inhalation after a fire broke out at 543 Rathgar Ave. on Thursday. JAMES TURNER

2 Retailer H&M is apparently in talks with two downtown property owners, according to Downtown BIZ executive director Stephano Grande. ELISHA DACEY

3 Winnipeg's YouTube sensation Maria Aragon will entertain Prince William and Kate Middleton during Canada Day festivities on Parliament Hill. JAMES TURNER

4 Former Global TV anchor Mike Brown has declared his intentions to run in the St. Vital riding in the provincial election. ELISHA DACEY

Do you want to help create a better life for injured workers?

We are called the Injured and Disabled Workers' Centre, which is a non-profit charitable Community Organization that works for the rights of the disabled. We are looking for motivated enterprising individuals to join our board to help the organization continue. The current funding source will cease at the end of December 2011, so we are in the process of trying to find alternate funding. As a result, a strong background in finances and law is desired. We also need your firm handshake, persuasive abilities and approximately six hours of your time per month!

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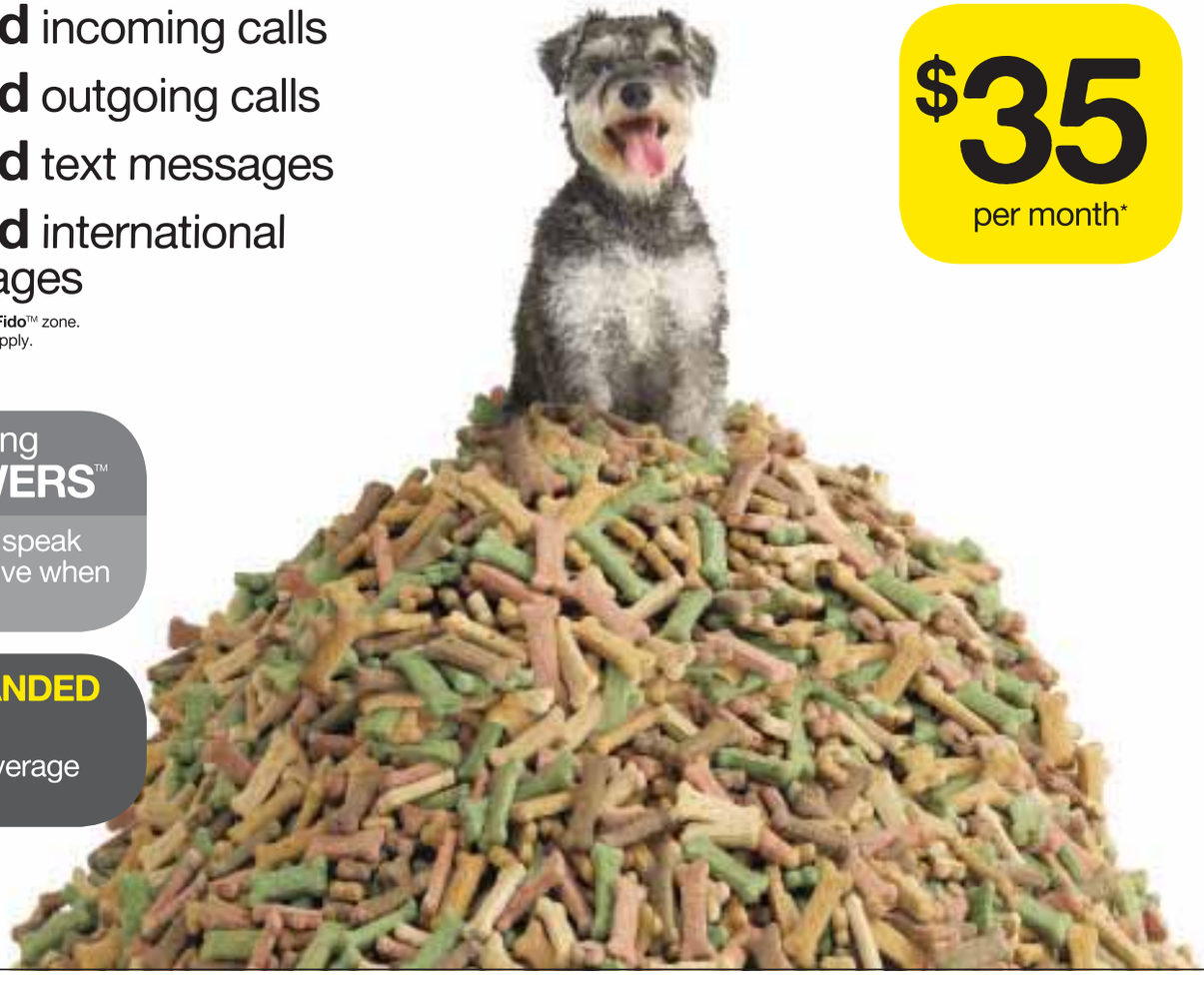

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AG blasts Tories over G8 secrecy

Auditors couldn't find documents about how projects were chosen for funding Public servants had no input

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Media follow Tony Clement, president of the Treasury Board and minister for the Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario, as he leaves a news conference after commenting on the auditor general's report in Ottawa on Thursday.

The wording has been softened but the auditor general's verdict remains much the same: the Harper government kept Parliament in the dark about a $50-million G8 fund that sprayed money on dubious projects in a cabinet minister's riding.

The final report on the G8 legacy infrastructure fund concludes that the government "did not clearly or transparently'' identify how the money was going to be spent when it sought parliamentary approval for the funding.

Moreover, the report criticizes the unprecedented lack of documentation to explain how and why 32 infrastructure projects in the Parry Sound-Muskoka region were selected to get the government largesse.

"It is very unusual and troubling. There is no paper trail behind the selection of the 32 projects."

INTERIM AUDITOR GENERAL JOHN WIERSEMA

In a separate chapter of the report, the auditor general says spending on operations and security for both the G8 and G20 meetings in Ontario was presented piecemeal to Parliament instead of in a package, leaving MPs poorly informed about total costs.

But in one bright spot, the report says it seems the initially budgeted $1.1 billion for the summits will actually come in around $664 million because poor planning forced departments to create contingency funds that were not needed.

The final report does not contain the inflammatory language used in a January draft by former auditor general Sheila Fraser, which baldly asserted the government had "misinformed'' Parliament.

The report details how, in November 2009, the government tabled supplementary estimates in which it asked Parliament to approve $83 million for a border infrastructure fund aimed at reducing congestion at border crossings.

Parliament was not told that $50 million of that money was to be devoted to infrastructure projects hundreds of kilometres from the Canada-U.S. border — in Tory MP Tony Clement's riding.

Wiersema said the word "misinformed'' was excised in the report's final version because auditors saw no evidence to suggest the government was deliberately trying to mislead Parliament. Rather, he said, the misrepresentation in the estimates appeared to have been done "for matters of expediency."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MacKay reveals Libya price tag so far: $26M

Extending Canada's military mission in Libya could come with a $60 million price tag.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay has revealed the cost of Canada's participation in the NATO-led offensive to topple Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi.

The mission cost Canadians about $26 million to June 2, MacKay said Thursday at a NATO meeting in Brussels. The Defence Department in Ottawa had rebuffed previous requests to make public the incremental cost of the mission.

The Canadian Forces are contributing 650 personnel along with fighter jets, a warship HMCS Charlottetown and surveillance planes to the UN-approved mission to protect civilians from the Gadhafi regime.

The government will introduce a motion in Parliament next week to extend the mission another three and a half months — to the end of September 2011 — which will more than double the current cost.

Flight missions

- **Canada's CF-18 fighter jets** have flown more than 1,750 hours while completing more than 360 attack missions, Minister of Defence Peter MacKay said.
- **Maritime patrol aircraft** have flown more than 530 hours on 65 missions, MacKay said.

"Simply put, Canada's leadership in this mission has protected civilians and saved thousands of civilian in Libya," McKay said in a statement.

So far, the NATO bombardment has failed to unseat Gadhafi, whose forces have fought back in recent days with a counteroffensive on the western city of Misrata.

Gadhafi's forces launched an attack on Misrata on Wednesday, killing at least 10 rebels.

The NATO bombardment continued Thursday with another round of air attacks on the outskirts of the capital, Tripoli.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Fans react as they watch Game 4 of the Stanley Cup final in downtown Vancouver Wednesday.

FAIR-WEATHER FANS TURNING SOUR

JEFF HODSON
@METRONEWS.CA

HOME ICE ADVANTAGE

After back-to-back maulings at the hands of the Bruins in Boston, the mood in Vancouver Thursday morning was as grey and dismal as the weather.

Vancouver has long had a reputation of being a bandwagon city. When the team is playing well, fans are giddy, loud and a little obnoxious. When the team plays poorly, fans are quick to turn on them.

Fans who gathered at Rogers Arena to watch Game 4 on the centre ice scoreboard Thursday night awarded goaltender Roberto Luongo a Bronx cheer when he was yanked after four goals.

Personally, I think he was pulled four periods too late.

JEFF HODSON IS MANAGING EDITOR OF METRO VANCOUVER

Black's defence want some testimony nixed

"The notion that Conrad Black is some sort of arrogant elitist was thoroughly debunked at the time of the original sentencing."

CAROLYN GURLAND, ONE OF BLACK'S LAWYERS, IN U.S. COURT FILINGS.

Conrad Black's lawyer is accusing prosecutors of having such disdain for the former media baron that they're launching a "shameful" smear campaign to influence his resentencing hearing and want the scathing testimony of two prison workers thrown out.

A portrayal of Black in recent affidavits as a haughty aristocrat who shirked tutoring responsibilities and used other inmates as servants while behind bars is "demonstrably false," Carolyn Gurland, one of Black's lawyers, argues in U.S. court filings.

In one of the affidavits, a unit manager at the Coleman complex said Black demanded special treatment and gathered an entourage of inmates who acted as his servants.

In another document, an education specialist who supervised Black as a tutor claimed he was a haughty and uninterested mentor who was frequently late and often read or worked on writing what appeared to be a book while he was supposed to be teaching.

"The result is a drive-by disparagement of Mr. Black which reveals nothing but the intensity of the government's dislike for him," Gurland said in the statement.

The accounts were filed by U.S. prosecutors earlier this month and will be considered when Judge Amy St. Eve, who presided over Black's original trial in 2007, hears arguments June 30 on whether Black should return to jail on two remaining convictions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Death for honour killings

Couple shot and buried by family
In May, India's top court called the practice barbaric and feudal

The father and brother of a 20-year-old Indian woman have been sentenced to death for killing her and her husband for marrying within the same Hindu clan, police said Thursday.

Eight other family members also were given the death penalty Wednesday for the killings three years ago in the northern Uttar Pradesh state, said Brij Lal, a top police officer. The defendants can appeal to a higher court.

Judge Rajendra Babu Singh said the punishments should serve as a lesson to all those who kill in the name of saving family honour. Last month, India's top court recommended the death penalty for perpetrators of honour killings, calling the practice barbaric and feudal.

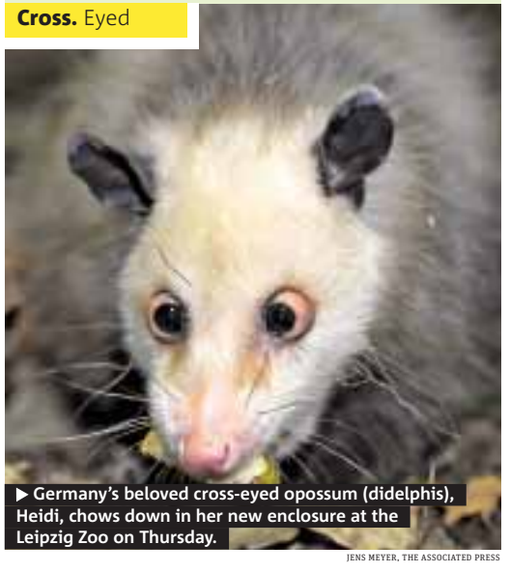
900 A study found that around 900 people are killed each year in India for defying their elders. Most victims are young adults who fell in love or married against their families' wishes. In some cases, village councils ordered couples killed who married inside their clan or outside their caste.

The 10 defendants were convicted of killing Vijaya and Udaipal Singh. Vijaya Singh's parents opposed the marriage but she defied them, eloping with her lover and getting married secretly in a Hindu temple.

The couple were shot to death and buried in a paddy field.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cross. Eyed



▶ Germany's beloved cross-eyed opossum (didelphis), Heidi, chows down in her new enclosure at the Leipzig Zoo on Thursday.

JENS MEYER, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eyes out for opossum

Heidi, the cross-eyed opossum, will be on show in the nocturnal animal section at the Gondwanaland tropical experience world in Germany from July 1. The animal came from a zoo in Denmark.

Face-veil ban upheld in Spain

A Spanish court has upheld a ban on face-covering Islamic veils worn in municipal buildings. In 2010, Lleida became the first Spanish city to impose the ban. The Catalan Regional Superior Justice Tribunal suspended it following an appeal by a Muslim association. The court ruled Wednesday that the city was within its rights to ban the clothing for security and identification purposes. It also backed the argument that the veils are discriminatory. About three per cent of Lleida's population is Muslim and few wear face-covering garments.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stalin's leather coat to return

The long black leather coats that struck fear into Soviet citizens as part of the ominous dress code for Stalin's secret police, NKVD, appear to be making a comeback.

The security forces who guard President Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin are holding a state tender for 60 such coats and 60 shorter jackets. The website for state tenders showed the order is worth $108,000 US.

Stalin's secret police carried out the repression and purges of the 1930s. The officers executed hundreds of thousands of people and ran labour camps.

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Microsoft to pay millions to T.O. firm

Seattle company now sells versions of Word without disputed technology Landmark case in patent law

Canadian software company i4i Inc. has emerged the victor in a patent battle with tech super-heavyweight Microsoft after the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a judgment that i4i be paid $290 million US for patent infringement.

The high court on Thursday refused to throw out an earlier ruling that found the world's largest software maker wilfully infringed on a patent in its Microsoft Word software and ordered it to pay $290 million to i4i and to stop selling versions containing the infringing technology.

The landmark decision has broad implications for the patent world as it essentially upholds the basis for many years of U.S. patent decisions.

"It's one of the most important business cases the U.S. Supreme Court has decided in decades," said i4i chairman Louden Owen.

"Microsoft's appeal and, along with their gang of supporters who decided they would file on their behalf, were taking great strides to try to throw a lot of uncertainty into the system," he said from Toronto.

Microsoft wanted the judgment against it erased because it claimed a judge used the wrong standard in instructing the jury that came up with the award.

Several companies supported Microsoft in its battle against i4i, including Apple, Google and Cisco Systems. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Patent battles

- Toronto-based i4i sued Microsoft in 2007, saying it owned the technology behind a tool used in Microsoft Word.
- The technology in question gave Word 2003 and Word 2007 users an improved way to edit XML, which is a code that tells the program how to interpret and display a document's contents.

FORD MOTOR CO./THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ In this product image provided by Ford, the C-MAX Hybrid, a next-generation full-hybrid version of the five-passenger multi-activity vehicle, is shown.

Meet Ford's van with a hybrid plan

Ford is making a minivan that will become its first U.S. vehicle sold only as a hybrid.

Ford sells hybrid versions of some gas-powered cars, but it's got nothing like the Toyota Prius, which is sold as a hybrid.

Ford's minivan is based on a five-passenger van, the C-Max, which is sold in Europe but runs on gasoline.

Ford had planned to introduce a seven-passenger, gas-powered C-Max in the U.S. next year. But it's scrapping that so it can build more hybrid-only C-Maxes. The van goes on sale next year.

The minivan will get more than 17.4 kilometres per litre. A plug-in version will also be sold. It will be similar to the Chevrolet Volt, which can drive in all-electric mode but has a backup gas engine. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

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TV networks boosting online ad space

One of the rewards of watching TV online is not having to sit through as many commercials. Now the networks are chipping away at that little luxury.

CBS shows twice as many ads per show on its website as it did last year. The CW network shows four times as many. Dozens of shows from major cable networks now carry as many ads online as they do on TV. More shows will follow soon.

The online audience is still small compared with television, but it's growing.

Networks hope that by showing more ads, they can make about as much money per viewer online as they do on the tube.

It's a change from the early days of online video. When ABC started putting full episodes of its shows online in 2006, fans could zip through the hour-long dramas Lost and Desperate Housewives in about 45 minutes.

Limiting commercials kept people from going to unauthorized websites to watch pirated copies of shows. It also helped networks reach new audiences in college dorms and teenage bedrooms.

Now, as online audiences grow, networks see an opportunity to make more money.

Online video has improved in recent years with faster Internet connections and better technology.

The advances have led some people to give up on regular TV — and hefty cable bills that come with it — and watch only online. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TV vs. Internet

- Networks still make far more money from TV than from the Internet, as online audiences are still comparatively small.
- Stations also get a piece of the monthly bills that viewers pay to satellite or cable companies for TV subscriptions.
- Residents in the U.S. on average spent about 160 hours a month in front of the tube in early 2010 and only seven watching video on a computer or phone, according to the latest data from Nielsen Co.
- Online video is growing fast. According to online ad firm FreeWheel Media Inc., people watched 9 billion online videos from clients such as Fox, CBS and Turner in the last three months of 2010, an increase of about 50 per cent from the previous quarter.

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HOTDOG POLITICIAN GETS GRILLED

THE METRO LIST

NEIL MORTON
METRO

1 Weinergate. After a failed coverup, married New York congressman Anthony Weiner finally admitted to sexting exchanges with six women, including a tweet photo sent to one of him in bulging underpants. He hasn't tweeted @RepWeiner in a week, playing it safe as "Weinergate" keeps getting bigger and bigger.

2 Green Men. The popularity — and brand — of these two super fans is growing during Vancouver's Stanley Cup run. "Green Men" merchandise at greenmengear.com, 163,000 fans on Facebook, 30,000 followers on Twitter @thegreenmen — who would have thunk lime green suits could be so cool.

"Lesson learned: Teen house parties pre-FB were much tamer. And, in retrospect, much preferable to parents."

3 Star Wars or Star Trek? A new paperback compendium called Star Wars vs. Star Trek: Could The Empire Kick The Federation's Ass? purports to quell the decades-long debate of which is better. Didn't know there was a debate: A lightsaber could deflect a beam from a phaser any day.

4 Bobcaygeon in Bobcaygeon. The Tragically Hip play Bobcaygeon, Ont., June 25 on a 175-acre waterfront site as part of Big Music Fest. Let's see: The Hip singing its hit Bobcaygeon in Bobcaygeon to thousands of fans drinking Canadian beer in cottage country. Yep, couldn't get much more Canadian than that, eh?

5 Tina Fey is Sarah Palin on Fox. Oops — during a segment on Sarah Palin, Fox News meant to use a pic of Palin but instead displayed one of Tina Fey doing an old SNL impersonation of Palin. Either this was a huge blunder or a prank from a Democrat graphics department intern gone wild on their last day.

6 Private Facebook party very public. A German teen forgot to set her Facebook "event" 16th birthday party to private. The invite went viral and 1,500 partygoers showed up outside her house. Lesson learned: Teen house parties pre-FB were much tamer. And, in retrospect, much preferable to parents.

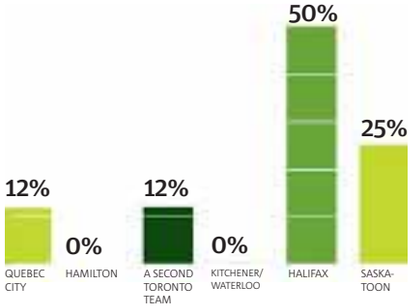
7 Winnipeg. Retro Winnipeg Jets tees and merch are coming out of the woodwork across the country now that Winnipeg has an NHL franchise again. Now if only they would decide on a name ... gotta be the Jets again! And to go more retro, can we bring back the Quebec Nordiques?

8 Thriller jacket. The iconic red and black jacket MJ wore in his Thriller video is being auctioned off in a couple weeks at a gallery in Beverly Hills, Calif., and is expected to fetch about $200,000 US. Great piece of pop culture history. Metro readers, let's pool our money and put in our best bid.

Follow Neil Morton on Twitter (@neilmorton).

Register at metrolifepanel.ca and take the quick poll

With Winnipeg getting an NHL team, which Canadian city should the NHL look at next?



Local tweets

- **@SPGiesbrecht:** Manitoba: You'll have a floody good time! #Badprovincialmottos
- **@zedlacher:** Ontario; In your face Manitoba, we have TWO sucky NHL teams #BadProvincialMottos
- **@artistKatana:** Manitoba: Just cuz we're a prairie province doesn't mean we DON'T HAVE AN OCEAN. #badprovincialmottos
- **@acrazychameleon:** BC: where a 500sqft condo costs twice as much as a home in Tuxedo (winnipeg) #badprovincialmottos
- **@Nicol05:** Dude it's never ok to not be wearing a shirt downtown. I don't care how hot it is. FYI it was only 18 today #Winnipeg #putashirton
- **@kristinesigua:** I hate how mosquitoes love me.
- **@JordanCoates:** Pretty funny/weird hearing Daly talk about NHL in Wpg like he is now. After all those times of him denying everything with Bettman #gojetsgo
- **@PayChen:** Hey dude in car next to me: your blaring stereo only draws attention to the fact that your pimpmobile is made up of pieces from 4 cars.

Worth mentioning

NEW YORK. After pressure from four U.S. senators, Apple Inc. has said it will start rejecting iPhone applications that tip drivers off about police checkpoints for drunken driving.

Apple updated its app developer guidelines Wednesday to exclude such apps. On Thursday, some DUI apps were still available in the App Store, but Apple usually gives developers a chance to update their apps so they can conform to the new guidelines before booting them.

The apps often combine warnings about DUI checkpoints with warnings about speed traps and red-light cameras. Users of the applications help create the warnings by registering the locations.

An Apple spokesman had no comment on the change in the guidelines and wouldn't say why the change was made.

The four senators asked Apple, Research In Motion Ltd., the maker of the BlackBerry, and Google Inc. to remove DUI-avoidance apps in March.

RIM complied, but Google refused.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cartoon by Michael de Adder

WEIRD NEWS

The true definition of an inside job

A man was arrested in Spain after curling himself up inside a large suitcase that was placed in an airport bus cargo bay and sneaking out to steal from other people's luggage, police said Thursday.

The man arrested last week was five-foot-10 and very thin, a police official in the northeastern Catalonia region said. An accomplice was also arrested.

The accomplice would place the contortionist thief inside the cargo bay of a bus running from the airport in the city of Girona south to Barcelona, board the bus and then retrieve him at the end of the line.

During the 100-kilometre ride, the man would slip out of the suitcase and use a sharp object to pick locks or open zippers to get into other people's luggage, police said.

He stole objects including cellphones, laptops and GPS devices and would place them in a smaller bag he brought with him. The thief would then get back into the larger suitcase and when the bus reached its destination, the accomplice would retrieve both pieces of luggage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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2 scene

The MuchMusic Video Awards has announced a smoking addition to this year's lineup: Grammy-nominated rapper Snoop Dogg. Golden Globe-winning actor Colin Farrell has also been announced as a presenter, along with Kat Graham of Vampire Diaries and Cassie Scerbo of Make It or Break It.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hollywood's Legendary Entertainment, China's Huayi Brothers strike co-production deal. Scan code for story.

Plot synopsis

- Welcome to the no-spoiler zone! Here's what we can tell you about Super 8: The action in this movie begins with six Lillian, Ohio kids shooting an amateur zombie movie. As their super 8 film rolls they witness a terrifying real-life train derailment. Soon strange things start happening in town as the army tries their best to contain the situation.
- **Ratings:**
  Richard: ●●●●
  Mark: ●●●½

▶ Super 8

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE & MARK BRESLIN
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Super 8 is super great

Richard Crouse and Mark Breslin agree there's a lot to like about Super 8
Director J.J. Abrams draws out the suspense, with Spielbergian flourishes

Richard Crouse: Mark, J.J. Abrams directs Super 8 the way he produced the TV show Lost. He draws out the suspense, doling out just enough detail, shocks and surprises to keep the story interesting and moving forward. He knows that the strength of the movie isn't the special effects or the whatever-it-is that is causing all the trouble, but the relationship between the kids. Call it Stand By Me with a giant bug... or a monster... or something. I'm not saying what!

Mark Breslin: All true, but you can feel Steven Spielberg's hand guiding the movie all the way along. The suburban flyover state setting, the gentle outsider child protagonists, the deceased parent, the bicycles, the alien who just wants to go home, all Spielberg motifs. And setting it in the early '80s, when Spielberg had his big sci-fi hits, surely was no coincidence.

RC: Perhaps so, but despite the Spielbergian flourishes, this still very much feels like an Abrams creation to me. His fingerprints are all over the action sequences — particularly the out-of-control train wreck scene — and even the sweetness we've come to associate with Spielberg has been dialled back. It's still there — very much so in the film's last 10 minutes — but Abrams manages to set the tone as though he is paying homage to the saccharine tendencies of his mentor than actually aping him.

MB: That train wreck scene had me on the edge of my seat! But the rest of the picture did not exactly exude menace. It's more of a character piece about the young teens, and I thought the kids were great, certainly more interesting than the adults (which may be one of the points of the movie). I liked the picture, and my only real quibble was that the kids' filmmaking, which played such an important part in the beginning of the movie, is dropped midway through the flick. The scenes of those kids making movies were dripping with charm.

RC: I thought so too. Those scenes had a sense of fun to them and established the personalities of all the main kid characters. I think I liked this one more than you. I thought Super 8 was super great.

MB: Well, the middle was a bit soft and I'm always skeptical about courageous 14-year-olds. Still, there's a lot to like in this one.

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Up close and personal with Mr. Popper's Penguins

James Tupper stars alongside aquatic actors in movie version of children's book But was more intimidated by Jim Carrey — at first

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

James Tupper, the Nova Scotia-born star of Mr. Popper's Penguins, calls his co-stars "ornery."

No, he's not talking about Jim Carrey or Angela Lansbury. He's referring to the movie's aquatic, flightless actors.

"They kind of look like toddlers wearing a tuxedo with their chests sticking out in this really open, sweet way," he says. "But when you get close to them they will give you a nip."

To accommodate the birds, the film's set was kept below zero. "You could see your breath all day long," says Tupper.

As for working with the penguins, he says they're not great actors, but performing opposite the Antarctic imports was less strange than acting without them.

Computer-generated penguins were used for several scenes, which meant Tupper would have to emote to a mark on the wall.

"There would just be a dot on the wall and they would put the penguin in later. Sometimes the director would be back there saying, 'Oh! Oh! I'm going to bite you!' and act stuff out for you to react to but we all got this weird 'acting to the dot' effect."

Tupper, best known for his work on television shows like Men In Trees (where he co-starred with his fiancée Anne Heche) and Grey's Anatomy, says the penguins weren't the set's most intimidating presence. At first anyway.

"It was a little bit intimidating when I first met him," he says of Jim Carrey. "He slapped me on the back and was like, 'Jim or James?' I said, 'You know what. I think you've probably got Jim covered. I'm going to stick with James.'"

That intimidation soon gave way to a lively collaboration.

"He's really fun. It's a playful set. He improvises a lot and generally has the crew chuckling most of the day."

James, however, wasn't the only member of his family impressed with Carrey. His nine-year-old son is also a fan.

"When we read the book Mr. Popper's Penguins to him in bed, he got so excited when he found out Jim Carrey was in it.

He said, 'Can you please get Jim Carrey to sign it?' So I did. I took it to New York and he signed it and I brought it back and I said, 'Would you like me to sign it too?' No! Why! I said, 'Cut me a break. I'm in the movie.'"

HANDOUT

▶ James Tupper

Movie reviews

See it twice ●●●●● | See it now ●●●● | Worth watching ●●● | Yawn ●● | Don't bother ●

The Year Dolly Parton Was My Mom
Genre: Drama
Director: Tara Johns
Stars: Julia Stone, Gil Bellows
●●●
At the onset of puberty, pre-teen Elizabeth (Julie Stone) discovers that she is adopted.

It's devastating of course, until she reasons that country superstar Dolly Parton may be her biological mama and sets out to confront the singing legend.

An impressive debut feature, The Year Dolly Parton Was My Mom is punctuated with solid performances, a keen eye on the art direction of the 1970s and Canadian themes: It juggles both a coming of age tale and a road trip – two staples firmly fixed in Hollywood North's wheelhouse.

● STEVE GOW

Cell 213
Genre: Horror
Director: Stephen Kay
Stars: Eric Balfour, Bruce Greenwood, Michael Rooker
●●●
Underrated actor Eric Balfour (Skyline) once again delivers a solid performance in this dark supernatural Canadian shocker and he's supported by a cast of equally reliable thesps like Bruce Greenwood and Michael Rooker. The movie itself isn't nearly as good as its talent, however, filled as it is with jittery post-SAW camera work and hammy plot contrivances. Balfour's hotshot lawyer gets sent upstate unjustly and is soon running afoul of creepy ghosts and creepier clichés (corrupt warden, brutish guard, hulking prison yard rapist). Worth watching for its lead though, and some truly stomach churning gore effects.

● CHRIS ALEXANDER

Forks over Knives
Genre: Documentary
Director: Lee Fulkerson
●●
An anti-meat manifesto that attempts to shame carnivores with both scientific arguments and the aggressive re-branding of vegan as a manly endeavour (as in a sequence with a granola-loving MMA fighter), Forks over Knives is by turns persuasive and irritating. Certainly Lee Fulkerson's documentary presents plenty of good evidence that diets eschewing animal products promote good health and ward off diabetes and heart disease; the problem is that the facts are presented in such a slanted and ideologically rigid manner that the film will likely alienate the very meat-and-potatoes constituency it means to sway.

● ADAM NAYMAN

Judy Moody And The Not A Bummer Summer
Genre: Family
Director: Jordana Beatty, Heather Graham, Parris Mosteller
●●
Yet another children's film filled with slapstick comedy and performances broad enough for a Christmas pantomime. It's about a young girl who desperately wants to have an exciting summer, but ends up stuck with a strange aunt, a Bigfoot-obsessed brother and no friends. Somehow I've got a feeling that lessons of acceptance and secret excitement are just around the corner. It's all a bit grating, coated in a stink of desperation from filmmakers who are desperately trying to appeal to young audiences they don't understand. If your kids enjoy the book, then the film might be worth it. Otherwise, stay as far away as possible.

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WINNIPEG

Cinema City McGillivray
2190 McGillivray Blvd., 204-269-9981

The Adjustment Bureau (PG) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:30-8:10-10:30
Barney's Version (14A) Fri-Thu 10
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (G) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:20-9:45
Gnomeo and Juliet 3D (G) Fri-Thu 2:10-4:25-6:40-8:50
Hall Pass (18A) Fri-Thu 2:20-5:10-8-10:20
Hanna (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:10-9:50
Hop (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:40
Just Go With It (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-7-9:40
The Lincoln Lawyer (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:50-7:30-10:10
Mars Needs Moms 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:20-7:05-9:15
Prom (G) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:50-9:20
Rango (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:30-6:30-9:10
Source Code (PG) Fri-Thu 2-5-7:50-10:35

Cinema City Northgate
1399 McPhillips Street, 204-334-6234

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (G) Sat-Sun 1:30-4:30 Mon-Thu 5:40
Hanna (14A) Fri 7:10-10 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:20-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:10
Hop (G) Fri 6:30-9:10 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:10-6:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 5-7:30
The Lincoln Lawyer (14A) Fri 6:40-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:40-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:10-8
Paul (14A) Fri-Sun 7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 8:20
Prom (G) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:40-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:40
Rango (PG) Fri 6:50-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:20-4-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:30
Ready (PG) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 2-5-8 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:50
Source Code (PG) Fri 7:30-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:40

Cinematheque
304-100 Arthur, 204-925-3457

No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon-Tue
The Year Dolly Parton Was My Mom (STC) Fri-Sat 7-9 Sun 7 Wed-Thu 7-9

City Cinema - Northgate
1399 McPhillips, 204-334-6234

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (G) Sat-Sun 1:30-3:40 Mon-Thu 5:40
Hanna (14A) Fri 7:10-10 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:20-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:10
Hop (G) Fri 6:30-9:10 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:10-6:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 5-7:30
The Lincoln Lawyer (14A) Fri 6:40-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:40-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:10-8
Paul (14A) Fri-Sun 7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 8:20
Prom (G) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:40-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:40
Rango (PG) Fri 6:50-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:20-4-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:30
Ready (PG) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 2-5-8 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:50
Source Code (PG) Fri 7:30-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:40

Famous Players Kildonan Place
1555 Regent Ave W, 204-663-2166

Bridesmaids (14A) Fri 3:30-6:30-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:30-6:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:40
The Hangover Part II (18A) Fri 3:40-7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:40-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 6-8:50
Kung Fu Panda 2 (PG) Fri 4:10-6:40 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-6:40 Mon-Thu 5:50
Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (PG) Fri 3:50-6:50-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:20
Super 8 (PG) Fri 4:20-7:20-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:10 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:10
Thor (PG) Fri-Sun 9:10 Mon-Thu 8
X-Men: First Class (PG) No Passes Fri 4-7-10 No Passes Sat-Sun 1-4-7-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:30-8:30

Grant Park 8 Cinemas
1120 Grant Ave., 204-453-4084

Bridesmaids (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 3:40-6:40-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:40-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:40-6:40-10
The Hangover Part II (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:15-7:20-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:10-4:15-7:20-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:15-7:20-10:10
Kung Fu Panda 2 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:20-7-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:45-4:20-7-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:20-7-9:30
Midnight in Paris (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4-4:20-7:10-7:30-9:55-10:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1-1:20-4-4:20-7:10-7:30-9:55-10:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4-4:20-7:10-7:30-9:55-10:15
Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 3:30-6:45-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:45-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:30-6:45-9:50
Super 8 (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 3:50-6:50-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:50-6:50-9:40
X-Men: First Class (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 3:20-6:30-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:25-3:20-6:30-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:20-6:30-9:45

IMAX Theatre at Portage Place
Y003-393 Portage Avenue, 204-956-4629

The Alps (STC) Mon 12:15 Tue 12:10
Born to Be Wild 3D (G) Fri 1:15 Sat 10-12:15 Sun 12-3:30 Mon 10-11:15 Tue 11:10-1:15 Wed 3:15-7:30 Thu 10-12:10-2:30-7:15
Coral Reef Adventure (STC) Fri 7 Sat 1:15 Thu 11:10
Dolphins and Whales 3D: Tribes of the Ocean (G) Sat 11:10 Sun 1:15
Egypt 3D: Secrets of the Mummies (STC) Mon 1:30
Everest (STC) Sun 2:15
Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk 3D (STC) Fri 6 Sat 6:45
Hubble 3D (G) Fri 8 Wed 9-6:15 Thu 6
The Magic of Flight (STC) Wed 4:15
Stormchasers (STC) Fri 12:10

Landmark Globe Cinema
393 Portage Ave, 204-943-1583

Bill Cunningham New York (PG) Fri 7:30-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:30-3:45-7:30-9:45 Mon-Thu 7:30-9:45
The First Grader (14A) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1-3:15-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15
Forks Over Knives (STC) Fri 7:15-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:30-7:15-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:30

HANDOUT

▶ X-Men: First Class tells the origin story of the famous Marvel super group.

Landmark Towne Cinema 8
301 Notre Dame Avenue, 204-947-2848

The Bang Bang Club (STC) Fri 6:30-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:45-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:30
Bridesmaids (14A) Fri 6:45-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:30-6:45-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:20
The Conspirator (14A) Fri 6:45-9:15 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:15 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:15
The Hangover Part II (18A) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 1-3:45-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20
Judy Moody and the NOT Bummer Summer (G) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:30-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15
Kung Fu Panda 2 (PG) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:30-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15
Super 8 (PG) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:45-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30
X-Men: First Class (PG) Fri 6:30-9:15 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:30-6:30-9:15 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:15

SilverCity Polo Park
815 St. James Street, 204-774-1001

Bridesmaids (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:20-6:20-9:30
Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (STC) Wed 7
Fast Five (14A) Fri 12:55-4-7:35-10:40 Sat 12:45-4-7:35-10:40 Sun 12:45-4-7:35-10:25 Mon 12:35-3:35-10:30 Tue 12:45-4-7:35-10:40 Wed 12:45-4-7:35-10:25 Thu 12:45-4-7:35-10:50
Green Lantern 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01
The Hangover Part II (18A) Fri-Sat 1:20-4:20-7:10-9:55 Sun-Wed 1:20-4:20-7:20-9:55 Thu 1:20-4:20-7:10-9:55 Fri 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:35 Sat 11:15-1:50-4:50-7:50-10:35 Sun-Mon 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:20 Tue 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:45 Wed 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:20 Thu 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:35
Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (PG) Sat 10:30 Mon 7
Judy Moody and the NOT Bummer Summer (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:10-6:45-9:20
Kung Fu Panda 2 (PG) Fri 12:50-3:30 Sat 10:35-12:50-3:30 Sun-Tue 12:50-3:30 Wed 3:30 Thu 12:50-3:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Kung Fu Panda 2 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 12:10-2:30-5-7:30-9:55 Tue-Wed 12:10-2:30-5-7:30-10 Thu 12:10-2:30-4:50-7:10-9:20
Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (PG) Fri-Thu 10:15
Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides 3D (PG) Fri 12-3:15-7:15-10:25 Sat 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:25 Sun-Tue 12-3:15-7:15-10:25 Wed 12-3:15-10:25 Thu 12-3:15-7:15-10:25
Super 8 (PG) Fri 1-1:30-4-4:30-7-7:40-9:50-10:30 Sat 10:45-1-1:30-4-4:30-7-7:40-9:50-10:30 Sun-Mon 1-1:30-4-4:30-7-7:40-9:50-10:30 Tue 1-1:30-3:50-4:30-7-7:40-9:50-10:30 Wed 1:30-4-4:30-7-7:40-9:50-10:30 Thu 1-1:30-4-4:30-7-7:40-9:50-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Thor 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40-3:40-6:50 Wed 12:40-3:40 Thu 6:50
X-Men: First Class (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 12:15-3:15-6:40-7:40-10-10:45 No Passes Sun 12:15-3:15-6:40-7:40-10-10:30 No Passes Mon 12:15-3:15-6:40-9:30-10 No Passes Tue 12:15-3:15-6:40-7:40-10-10:45 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:15-3:15-6:40-7:40-10-10:30 No Passes Fri-Mon 12:45-3:50-7:10-10:20 No Passes Tue 12:55-4:10-7:10-10:20 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:45-3:50-7:10-10:20

SilverCity St. Vital
110-1225 St Mary's Rd, 204-256-3901

Bridesmaids (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:40-6:30-9:30 Mon-Tue 3:40-6:30-9:30 Wed 3:40-9:30 Thu 3:40-6:30-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening Mon 1
The Hangover Part II (18A) Fri-Sat 1:50-4:40-6:50-7:50-9:40-10:40 Sun 1:50-4:40-6:50-7:50-9:40-10:20 Mon 1:50-4:40-6:50-9:40-10:20 Tue-Thu 4:40-6:50-7:50-9:40-10:20
Judy Moody and the NOT Bummer Summer (G) Fri-Mon 1:30-4-6:20-9 Tue-Thu 4-6:20-9
Kung Fu Panda 2 (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:30 Mon-Thu 4:30 Star & Strollers Screening Mon 1
Kung Fu Panda 2 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 12:15-2:40-5-7:30-10:10 Tue-Thu 5-7:30-10:10
The Metropolitan Opera: Le Comte Ory Encore (STC) Mon 6:30
Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 12:40-3:50-7:10-10:20 Tue-Thu 3:50-7:10-10:20
Stephen Sondheim's Company (STC) Wed 7
Super 8 (PG) Fri-Mon 1-4:50-7:40-10:30 Tue-Thu 4:50-7:40-10:30
Thor 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 1:40-4:20-7-9:50 Tue-Thu 4:20-7-9:50
X-Men: First Class (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 12:30-1:10-3:30-4:10-6:40-7:40-10-10:40 No Passes Sun-Mon 12:30-1:10-3:30-4:10-6:40-7:20-10-10:30 No Passes Tue-Thu 3:30-4:10-6:40-7:20-10-10:30

SAMSUNG

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Only at Bell

Kings paying tribute to Queens

Blackie & the Rodeo Kings get guests Emmylou Harris, Lucinda Williams on new CD

HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Members of the band Blackie and the Rodeo Kings, from left, Stephen Fearing, Colin Linden and Tom Wilson.

Back in 1996, Tom Wilson recorded what he figured was a one-off project with Colin Linden and Stephen Fearing under the band name Blackie and the Rodeo Kings.

Wilson didn't think about it much. The group had been assembled to pay tribute to the late Canadian folk troubadour Willie P. Bennett, so it was a lark, a fun diversion. Wilson didn't even wait until the album was finished to leave and embark on his next project.

"We thought we were recording a record and that was it," Wilson said in a recent interview at a stylish Italian restaurant in Toronto.

"I said, 'It was great to meet you, Stephen.' Colin, I've known since our teens but never worked with him. I shook hands, and that was it. 'OK, good. Next' — that was what I thought.

"I was wrong."

Yes, 15 years later and Blackie and the Rodeo Kings are still riding along together, now set to issue another new album, Kings and Queens — the culmination of three years work and the group's first set of all-new material since the sessions that produced 2006's Juno-winning Let's Frolic and the '07 follow-up Let's Frolic Again.

The concept behind the new album was essentially to pair the roots-rock group's three unique voices with an all-star roster of female singers, including Lucinda Williams, Emmylou Harris, Exene Cervenka and Roseanne Cash. Linden jetted around North America — to Nashville, New Orleans, New York, Los Angeles and even Woodstock, N.Y. — with his computer to record the Queens.

And the trio now has glowing praise for each of the women featured on the album.

Sara Watkins was "really great." Serena Ryder, who sang on driving closer Black Sheep, was a "real powerhouse." And Cervenka? Well, Wilson was so enthusiastic about her performance he could only sum it up with an unprintable obscenity.

Mostly, though, the band raved about how their own vocals improved because of the presence of their 14 guests.

"We sang better," Wilson said.

"The same way that we're better men — better people — for the women that have surrounded our lives either on a long-term basis or a short-term basis, the same thing happened musically.

"We're better singers, better people."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HISTORY OF MUSIC: THE FORMAT WARS

All throughout history, an established technology never had a chance if something more convenient came along. Just look at what we've seen with music over the last 140 years or so.

SOUND CHECK

ALAN CROSS
SCENE
@METRONEWS.CA

Cylinders vs. Rotating Discs

Thomas Edison's phonograph with its rotating wax or metal cylinders established that sound could be captured.

But then Emile Berliner showed that rotating flat discs played on his gramophone were far superior. Why? Better sound and because discs had a B-side — twice as much music for the same price.

Edison had no choice but to move from cylinder to disc.

Phonographs vs. Gramophones

The phonograph tracked grooves in the record by going up and down.

The gramophone's needle went from side-to-side.

This meant that phonograph records couldn't be played on gramophones and vice-versa, forcing consumers to take sides.

While it's true that Edison's machine delivered slightly better sound, the up-and-down motion of the steel needle wore out the record more quickly.

Undeterred by this minor issue, Edison stuck to his guns and refused to make any changes to his machine.

Ultimately, though, the gramophone won out and Edison stopped making phonographs and records entirely by about 1930.

78s vs. LPs

By the 1930s, the standard rotation rate for discs was 78 RPM, which meant that each record could store only about four minutes per side. Columbia Records changed that in 1948 with the introduction of the vinyl 33 ⅓ RPM LP (Long-Playing), a format that could store up to 22 minutes per side. From that moment, the 78 was doomed.

LPs vs. 45s

Although Columbia offered to license their new technology to rival RCA, they would have none of it. Instead, they countered with the vinyl 45 RPM 7-inch single in 1949. RCA contended that four or five minutes of music per side was all consumers really wanted. But if they did want more, they could simply stack 45s for continuous play on the large spindle of the brand new automatic RCA-manufactured record changer. (This is why the hole at the centre of a 45 is so big; the larger diameter was necessary to let the record slide down the spindle without prematurely fraying the area around hole.)

Next week

The Streaming Wars.

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visit us @ www.rumorscomedyclub.com

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June 14th – 18th
Nate has had multiple appearances on Conan O'Brien & the Montreal Just for Laughs Festival, as well as recorded his own Comedy Central Presents Special!

Inspirational teacher made Glee star succeed

Matthew Morrison releases self-titled debut album, set to tour

Turns out Glee star Matthew Morrison had his own Mr. Schue.

The curly-haired performer, who plays ultra upbeat glee-club instructor Will Schuester on the hit musical TV series, credits one high school teacher with helping him get where he is today.

"I was kind of like (the character) Finn on Glee," said Morrison, who recently released his self-titled debut album and will tour Canada this summer with the New Kids on the Block and Backstreet Boys.

"I kind of rode the line between arts and athletics. I was a huge soccer player, and my junior year of high school I had to choose between playing soccer and being in the arts. And one teacher, especially, his name is Dr. Ralph Opacic, he said: 'I've been at this awhile and you have something really special and I think you just need to continue down this road.'

"And that was the talk that changed my life. He was totally my Mr. Schue."

Morrison went on to study at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. His first big Broadway show was Footloose at age 19.

"I was, like, the featured, white-boy break dancer in the show," Morrison, 32, recalled with a laugh in a recent interview, noting he started break dancing in Grade 7.

"I call it 'broke dancing' now because every time I do it I'm like, 'Oh God, that hurt!'"

He became a stage sensation, receiving a Tony Award nomination for his role in The Light in the Piazza and a Drama Desk nomination for his part in 10 Million Miles. He also starred in the Tony-winning revival of South Pacific as well as the Broadway hit Hairspray.

Morrison will be the opening act for the concert tour with the New Kids on the Block and Backstreet Boys, which kicks off its Canadian leg July 9 in Vancouver.

Renowned choreographer Kenny Ortega, who worked on Michael Jackson's This Is It tour, is putting together moves for Morrison to bust out onstage.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

"As an actor you can't get settled. I don't want to get settled into Glee."
MATTHEW MORRISON

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Morrison will be the opening act for the concert tour with the New Kids on the Block and Backstreet Boys.

Morrison's music

Released a month ago, his debut self-titled disc is a breezy collection of original and cover tunes.

- **Morrison** co-wrote several of the tracks, including the first single, Summer Rain.
- **Star power** Morrison also recruited a stately collection of stars to perform with him on the album.
- **Sting** sings with Morrison on a cover of the former Police frontman's tune Let Your Soul Be Your Pilot. Gwyneth Paltrow also joins him on Somewhere Over the Rainbow.

TV picks

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Neil Patrick Harris

Harris to host Tony Awards

HE'S COME A LONG WAY SINCE DOOGIE HOWSER. This Sunday's Tony Awards are once again being hosted by Broadway vet and How I Met Your Mother star Neil Patrick Harris.

Invitation to a gypsy wedding

ROMA ROMANCE . Friday's episode of the surprise reality hit My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding follows two teenage girls preparing for their wedding day. Some say the U.K.-import offers a fascinating new look at a culture that's misunderstood, while others believe the show simply feeds into stereotypes. (TLC)

Blowing the cat lady out of the water

SHE GETS MY GOAT. Continuing on the esoteric reality theme on Friday night is Confessions: Animal Hoarding. A woman faces losing her house as the costs of tending to her herd of goats and pit bulls mount. (Animal Planet)

Aguilera plays aspiring singer

DANCE DIVAS. Burlesque the musical starring Christina Aguilera and Cher, premieres Saturday on TMN.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Only at Bell

Hiatus finally finished: Come on over to Vegas

Shania to return to stage with two-year residency in Sin City

Shania Twain is ending her lengthy hiatus from performing with a two-year residency at Caesars Palace beginning in 2012, and she says she plans to seek advice from another Canadian diva who has found success in Las Vegas.

"I will call Celine (Dion) — somebody should warn her now," Twain joked during a news conference in Las Vegas on Wednesday.

"I think Celine will be very insightful and very helpful."

A Caesars Palace residency proved hugely successful for Dion, with a five-year stint at the Colosseum that ended in 2007 and a return engagement that began in March.

Twain is likely banking that a Sin City stint will give a similar boost to her career, which has stalled in recent years as she recovered from the breakup of her marriage to hit-making producer Robert (Mutt) Lange.

New music

- Twain, who hails from Timmins, hasn't released a new album since 2002's Up. But on Sunday, she will release the new single Today is Your Day — the first song she's written solo in six years.

Wednesday's announcement is the latest step in a carefully orchestrated comeback for Twain, the notoriously private 45-year-old who in recent months has stepped back into the spotlight with a reality TV series, a revealing autobiography and now the announcement of her Vegas engagement.

Tickets, which range from $55 to $250, were set to go on sale Wednesday evening at the exact moment Twain took the stage at the CMT Awards.

Aside from the opportunity to perform for rapt audiences at a glitzy venue, stars have also flocked to Vegas because the residency format is an appealing alternative to the often-arduous process of touring, and would allow Twain to remain in one place with her nine-year-old son, Eja.

"I'm beyond excited," said a beaming Twain, who will perform 60 shows per year beginning Dec. 1, 2012.

"I feel like I'm on the top of the world. Honestly, I feel like I've climbed a very giant mountain and I'm just standing right on top with my arms open wide.

"This is really beautiful, really lovely, I'm very excited today."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHARLES SYKES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Shania Twain, 45, has recently stepped back in the spotlight.

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'Peg writer offers up witchy new novel

One of Susie Moloney's earlier books commissioned by Tom Cruise's production company ◗ Public appetite for supernatural fuelled by Twilight

RICHARD WAGNER/THE CANADIAN PRESS HANDOUT

▶ Author Susie Moloney had an interest in the supernatural from an early age, becoming fascinated with the Salem witch trials and the legend of the Sasquatch.

Susie Moloney experienced the thrill of fright at a very young age.

"My mother was a huge horror fan," explains the Winnipeg author, whose latest horror-tinged novel, The Thirteen, hit stores this week.

"She would get scared watching scary movies late at night and she'd come wake us up to keep her company."

Moloney and her brother obliged.

And although the author claims, with a laugh, to have slept with her head under the covers ever since, terror clearly titillates her.

"It's like anything else that gets the adrenalin going, you know? It's like falling in love, it's like having a damn fine laugh."

All of Moloney's books have delved into otherworldliness, from her chilling 1995 debut Bastion Falls (about an ominously relentless snowstorm), to 1997's supernatural drought story A Dry Spell and 2003's haunted house tale The Dwelling.

The Thirteen marks her first foray into the world of witches, a topic Moloney says she was drawn to after a stint when she was surrounded by women.

"I went through a long period of time in my life where my world became very feminine," says the author.

"The important people in my life were my girlfriends, my sister, my neighbours — all of whom were women — and I found such solace and power and love and warmth and acceptance from my girlfriends."

The witches in the book — mothers and homemakers — are afforded great domestic comfort in exchange for membership to their witchy sisterhood.

"I ... liked the idea of being a witch," explains Moloney, who has two sons.

"You have this image when you go into suburban living ... you imagine that your children are going to be perfect, brilliant, successful, talented, your house is going to be spotless and gorgeous...the reality sinks in that you cannot do this without witchcraft!"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Strange sisters

The Thirteen tells the story of Paula Wittmore, a down-on-her-luck waitress who returns to her hometown with her daughter.

There, she visits her ailing mother, reconnects with her former best friend and encounters a strange group of women oddly anxious for her to join their circle.

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Arnold willing to beg to get Shriver back

Schwarzenegger telling friends he'll do anything to get Maria back

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Arnold Schwarzenegger

Despite the shocking disclosure that he fathered a child with their housekeeper and kept it secret for 13 years, Arnold Schwarzenegger is reportedly still hoping he and Maria Shriver can patch things up and avoid divorce, according to Popeater.

"He knows he has made terrible mistakes in his past but isn't prepared to lose the greatest woman in his life," a source close to the former California governor says.

"This has nothing to do with money or the children. He misses her terribly and will do whatever it takes to win her back. Even begging."

Schwarzenegger and Shriver have even reportedly been in regular contact since the separation, and the source adds that Schwarzenegger is hoping Shriver will realize that "despite all the affairs, what they had was real."

METRO

"This has nothing to do with money or the children. He misses her terribly and will do whatever it takes to win her back. Even begging."
SOURCE

Talking points

Jen and Justin going public

PUBLIC ASKS THEM TO GO BACK TO PRIVATE The usually private Jennifer Aniston has been much more public with her new boyfriend, Justin Theroux. So why the change?

"Justin is ready to take their relationship public," a source tells Us Weekly. "She doesn't want him to get frustrated with her usual covert way of doing things, so she's compromising and relaxing about the paparazzi."

The change in attitude appears to be working, as Theroux was scheduled to head back to New York after their public appearances last weekend, "but they were having so much fun he extended his trip," the source says.

METRO

This Catwoman has claws

DON'T CROSS HER PATH Anne Hathaway obviously doesn't find action work daunting, as a stuntman on the Dark Knight Rises learned when the actress — who is playing Catwoman in the film — accidentally gave him a black eye, according to the Sun.

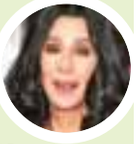
"Anne got a bit carried away during a fight scene and mistakenly shoved the butt of the gun right into the actor's eye socket," a source says. "He came away with a massive black eye — Anne was mortified."

METRO

Celebrity tweets

"Happy Bday 2 my lil princess... Can't believe it's been 3 yrs already! On the other hand I can't imagine my life b4 her! "
@jessicaalba

@aplusk
doing some soul searching today...


@cher
Ok don't know quite how my tweets r a challenge??? But Challenges rock! 'U want some cheese with that whine' U babies ?

@SteveMartinToGo
I'm so afraid to tweet. What if ankle X-ray gets in hands of unintended recipient like dermatologist? Do I resign? And if so, from what?

A Walk in the Park

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We invite everyone to come out for fresh air, exercise, and fun in support of our work.

- Prizes for top pledge raisers and a little something for each child who participates
- Registration is $10 and will be waived for anyone who brings in pledges of $50 or more (includes BBQ)

Revisiting a classic taste

PETER ROCKWELL
LIQUIDASSETS@EASTLINK.CA
TWITTER: @THEREALWINEGUY

How many wines are there in the world? The funny thing is, I don't know.

If you take a stab at counting grape varieties and multiply by worldwide wineries and all their individual brands and available vintages, you're easily talking millions.

That's why when you write about wine, it's easy to get caught up in the new and forget established juice.

I thought about that when I recently tried the stalwart Wolf Blass Eagle Hawk Shiraz ($13.00 - $13.99).

I was at a local resto with a limited wine list and took the waiter's suggestion of the 2009 vintage.

I do love how my preconceived notions of a wine can get the better of me and really got into how its dry-blackberry-meets-sweet-blueberry fruit and trail of inky, black licorice spice tasted so ...hip.

It's a perfect back deck red that would match with a nice piece of grilled beef as well as it would barbecued hamburgers. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS CANADA. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Have a field day with strawberries

After a long winter, it's almost time for growers to start picking everyone's favourite summer fruit ◗ Use strawberries in unique recipes

BOTH PHOTOS: THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

▶ Strawberries can be employed in salads and also pair well with cheese.

Red and luscious, fresh locally grown strawberries are a treat that Canadians eagerly anticipate after a long winter. And the wait won't be much longer. Pickers are poised to harvest the juicy morsels.

Strawberry-Topped Brie

This colourful warm cheese makes a great party dish served with thin slices of baguette.

Preparation:

1. With a sharp knife, remove the top rind from the brie cheese.
2. Place the cheese in an ovenproof dish that is just slightly bigger than the cheese. If you are using the liqueur, pour it over top. Sprinkle everything with brown sugar.
3. Arrange the strawberries, stem side down, on the cheese to cover top. Drizzle everything with maple syrup and sprinkle with nuts.
4. Place the dish on the unlit side of barbecue on medium heat.
5. Close the lid of the barbecue and grill for about 15 minutes or until the cheese is soft and starts to ooze over the edge.

Curried Chicken & Strawberry Salad

This is the perfect use for leftover chicken. If you don't have cooked chicken, four boneless skinless chicken breasts, grilled, will give you enough.

Preparation:

1. In bowl, whisk mayo, sour cream, lime rind, lime juice, honey, curry powder, salt and pepper.
2. In a bowl, stir together chicken, celery and onions; pour dressing over top and toss lightly to mix. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ FOODLAND ONTARIO**

Shopping list:

Salad
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) each mayo, low-fat sour cream
- 5 ml (1 tsp) grated lime rind
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) lime juice
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) honey
- 10 ml (2 tsp) curry powder
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 l (4 cups) diced cooked chicken
- 250 ml (1 cup) diced celery
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) sliced green onions
- 500 ml (2 cups) strawberries, hulled and halved
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) pecan halves, toasted, divided
- Lettuce leaves

Brie
- 500 g (1 lb) round of brie
- 10 ml (2 tsp) Amaretto or Frangelico liqueur (optional)
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) packed brown sugar
- 250 ml (1 cup) strawberries, hulled
- 25 ml (2 tbsp) maple syrup
- 25 ml (2 tbsp) almonds

3 life

Health check

Keeping our immune systems strong can be difficult, despite our best efforts.

Diana Steele, registered dietitian, says some fruit more than others give the body an excellent source of immune–boosting nutrients. Kiwi, strawberries, blueberries and papaya are in rich vitamin content.

NEWS CANADA

Celebrate summer and strawberry season with an elegant dessert, made with layers of strawberries.

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4 sports

NBA. Finals

▶ Miami's LeBron James goes up for a dunk early in Game 5 of the NBA finals on Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mavericks lose backup centre for Game 5

Dallas Mavericks backup centre Brendan Haywood was inactive for Game 5 of the NBA Finals because of a hip injury that's bothered him much of the series.
Haywood was injured late in Game 2 against the Miami Heat. He missed Game 3, then tried to play in Game 4, lasting only 3 minutes.
With two days off before Game 6 in Miami, there's still a chance Haywood could return.
Without him, Ian Mahinmi becomes the primary backup to starter Tyson Chandler.

Quoted

"You know, if somebody would have told me at the beginning of the year that we could play for the Stanley Cup, best two-out-of-three series with home ice advantage in front of our fans, I would have taken that anytime to play for the big prize"

CANUCKS COACH ALAIN VIGNEAULT ON BEING TIED 2-2 WITH THE BOSTON BRUINS IN THE STANLEY CUP FINAL. GAME 5 IS FRIDAY NIGHT IN VANCOUVER (CBC, 7 P.M.)

Scan code for more sports.

Thrashers' Ladd visits 'Peg

Says he's 'really impressed' with team's new home Forward is a restricted free agent

After three NHL teams in six years, Atlanta Thrashers captain Andrew Ladd is looking for a place to hang his skates for a while.

That place may very well be Winnipeg, which Ladd said looks like a pretty good fit.

"I've been really impressed with the reception so far and their vision on what kind of culture they want to have here and the way they see things going," said Ladd, who brought his fiancée and his agent to town Thursday for a look at the place where the as-yet unnamed team will play this fall.

"How you're treated with ownership goes a long way and we didn't have a great experience with that in Atlanta," he said.

Ladd becomes a restricted free agent this summer and Winnipeg needs to sign him to a new deal to keep the left winger. For his part, he would be happy to see that happen, considering the number of lockers he has had to clean out in the NHL.

"It would be nice to be in the same place for a while and lock up for the summer and know you're coming back."

THRASHERS' CAPTAIN ANDREW LADD, WHO HAS PLAYED FOR THREE TEAMS ALREADY IN HIS YOUNG NHL CAREER.

"I've been kind of knocked around ... this will be my fourth spot, three teams but four spots in six or seven years," said Ladd.

He was drafted by Carolina in 2004, won a Stanley Cup with them two years later, moved to Chicago for another cup and was then traded to the Thrashers, who finished second last in the Southeast Division and missed the playoffs.

Winnipeg's new management has said it would be happy to have Ladd but they were a long way from a deal. He is coming out of a $2.35-million US, one-year contract in Atlanta.

"We haven't talked at all. I know they've got a lot of things on their plate," he said.

The native of Maple Ridge, B.C., did sit down to talk with general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff and team owner Mark Chipman. He will take back some of what they said to other members of the team and predicts there won't be much resistance to the relocation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pryor shoots down Riders

Terrelle Pryor isn't interested in playing in the CFL. He's also not interested in speaking to the NCAA.

The former Ohio State quarterback announced he would not return to Ohio State for his senior season in the wake of an NCAA suspension and ongoing investigation involving improper benefits. The Saskatchewan Roughriders had extended him a tentative offer.

"They sent the package last night, I forwarded it to Terrelle and Terrelle said that he wasn't interested today," Pryor's attorney, Larry James, said Thursday.

James also said that Pryor will no longer co-operate with NCAA investigators.

Asked if Pryor gave him a reason for his lack of interest in the Roughriders, James said, "He just said he's not interested in the Canadian Football League. Obviously the offer was not sufficient to whet his taste buds." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

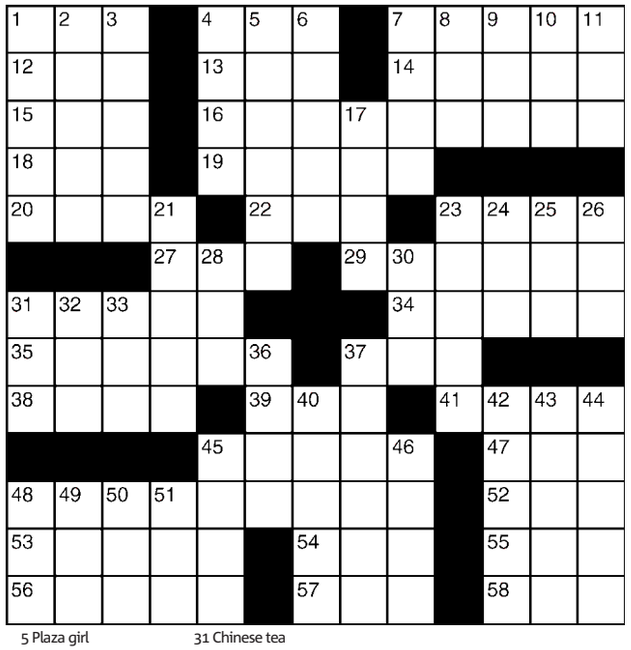
MTS Centre won't need much work

Winnipeg's MTS Centre already meets most NHL standards and only minor changes are needed, deputy league commissioner Bill Daly said Thursday.

"I think this building is pretty much in compliance with our standards as it is," he said, adding that there is a need to ensure the boards and glass in the arena are in line with new NHL regulations that other league arenas also must meet for next season.

The MTS Centre will also need more camera positions. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crossword



Across

1 Old possessive
4 Solidify
7 Phantom's bailiwick
12 Weeding tool
13 Hearty quaff
14 On the level
15 Piratic potation
16 Meeting place?
18 Earlier than
19 Polygonal bounds
20 Emoticon with a semicolon
22 Away from NNW
23 Mafia boss
27 First lady
29 Short-necked bottle
31 Burrito ingredient
34 Run off to wed
35 Apollo Theater's neighborhood
37 Chesapeake, e.g.
38 Vacationing
39 College URL ending
41 Picture of health?
45 Heart line
47 Mound stat
48 "Monopoly" property
52 Whammy
53 Excessive
54 Architect I.M. —
55 Singer DiFranco
56 Twelve
57 Compass point suffix
58 — -relief

Down

1 Pitched
2 Muslim nymph
3 45-Down's nation
4 Won't shut up
5 Plaza girl
6 Begins
7 Automaker Ransom Eli —
8 Apiece
9 Id counterpart
10 Carnival city
11 $ dispenser
17 Coral structure
21 Shade of green
23 Sepals, collectively
24 In olden days
25 Burst
26 Inseparable
28 Compete
30 Meadow
31 Chinese tea
32 Hem and —
33 Gershwin or Levin
36 Catcall?
37 Alfred, at Wayne Manor
40 Curtain
42 Detox center
43 Sports venue
44 Graph component
45 See 3-Down
46 Related
48 Chum
49 Lennon's lady
50 Woodworking tool
51 Regret

▶ Yesterday's answer

O	F	F	■	D	A	T	A	■	C	O	T	S
I	L	A	■	U	N	I	T	■	O	A	H	U
L	U	N	A	T	I	C	S	■	A	T	O	M
■	■	A	S	I	■	K	E	T	C	H	U	P
F	A	T	H	E	R	■	A	N	T	■	■	■
U	R	I	■	S	E	W	■	T	E	H	E	E
M	I	C	K	■	D	I	P	■	D	E	L	L
E	A	S	E	L	■	G	A	P	■	R	A	M
■	■	■	Y	A	P	■	W	A	K	E	N	S
T	E	A	R	G	A	S	■	M	I	T	■	■
E	T	U	I	■	S	K	E	P	T	I	C	S
E	A	R	N	■	S	E	R	E	■	C	U	T
S	L	A	G	■	E	W	E	R	■	S	P	Y

Sudoku

5		1	6		2	4		7
		9				3		
	3						8	
		4	5		7	9		
3								4
		8	3		6	2		
	9						1	
		7				5		
4		2	1		8	6		3

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Sexy Girl
Baby our time has come to start our amazing weekend together. I'm so excited to be spending all my time with you, you are so amazing and loving and I know I will be cherishing every second! I <3 you with every ounce of my existence lover! Muah! **HOT GUY**

organic, still r u angery with me, pls tell me. **NA**

Waller, I know this is not tradition, but I just wanted to say that I love you with all of my heart and I cant wait to finally go on our first trip together this summer. It is going to be amazing and there is no one else I would rather share this experience with (of course). You are the best thing that ever happened to me and I am truly the luckiest girl in the world **SNUGGLEPAGUS RUMPLETUMPSKIN**

A look at the weather

Jenna Khan, Weather Specialist
"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 6AM**

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Min 9° Max 20°	Min 10° Max 21°	Min 10° Max 20°

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 If you let slip what you are planning today, you may find that one of your rivals beats you to it.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 It may seem things aren't going your way. Hang in there and expect your luck to change soon — it will.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 If you give in too easily your enemies will take it as a sign of weakness.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 It may seem as if partners and work colleagues have got it in for you or is it you who is overreacting?

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 If you accept each and every social invitation that comes your way, you will quickly exhaust yourself.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Don't take what others tell you too seriously today. You don't need flattery, you need the truth.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 If you are bored with your social scene then do something about it.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You cannot see the whole picture concerning a money matter, so don't make a snap decision about it.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Let someone you care for know how much they mean to you.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Don't worry if a rival pulls ahead of you. Underhanded methods will come back to haunt him or her.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 There is so much you can accomplish over the next few days but you won't get far on your own.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. Steer clear of people who rub you up the wrong way today. You don't need them. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

NG HAN GUAN/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARK LENNIHAN/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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Dey & Nite	Elisapie Isaac
Red Power Squad	Aboriginal School of Dance

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